

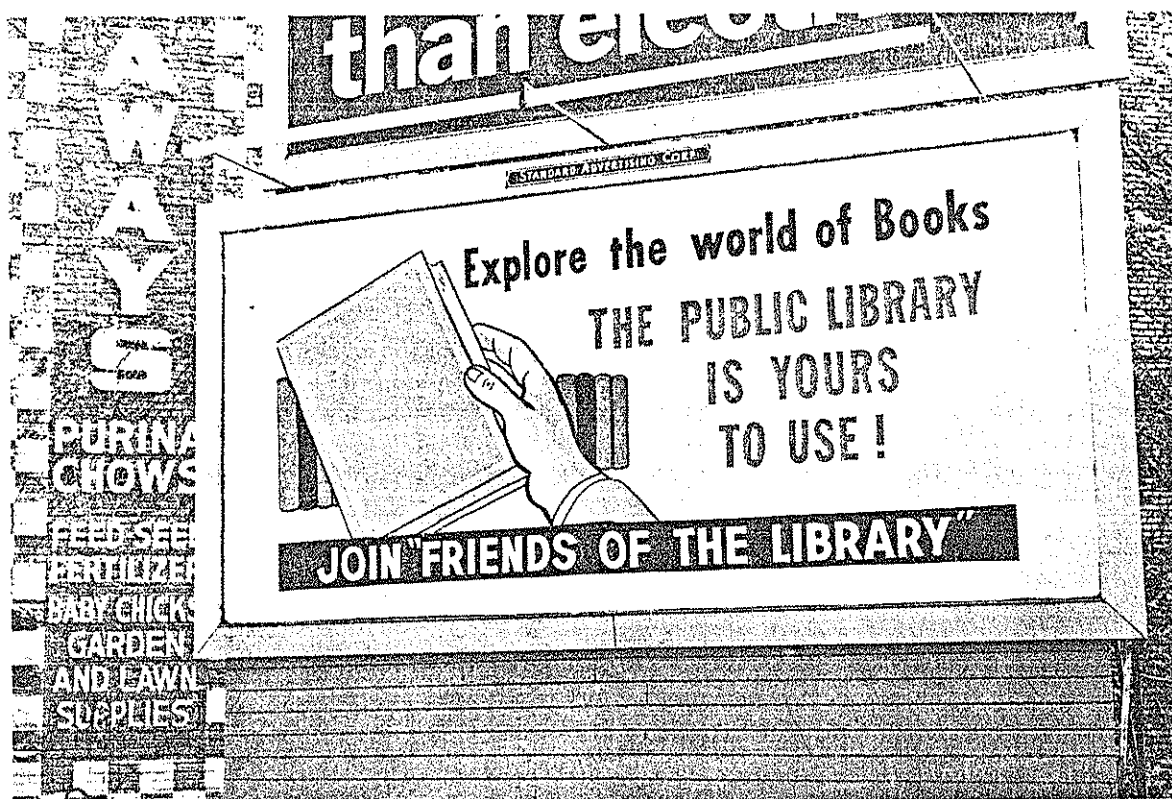
LIBRARY COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

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BILLBOARDS CAN SELL READING AND THE VALUE OF LIBRARIES

W. Va.'s "Library Friends" now number more than 2,000. In Fairmont Joseph Hoffman, President of the Marion County "Friends of the Library," conceived the idea for the billboards. Three of these were installed in key locations in the "Friendly City" for National Library Week.

FRIENDS OF THE LIBRARY
* * *
SUPER SALESMEN

These informal promotional groups have been organized in eight communities of the state.

Leading in enrollment figures are Beckley with 600 members, Huntington with 500 members, and Fairmont with 360 members. Most groups have two annual meetings a year. Dues are usually \$1.00 per individual and \$5.00 for an organization. Clarksburg has a more elaborate scale with individual dues to \$25.00 and a life membership pegged at \$100.00. To attract support from clubs, Franklin gives an award to the organization recruiting the greatest number of "Friends."

The Marion County group has outlined its goals as follows: "To create an awareness of opportunities offered by the library; to assist in increasing the library's facilities and services; to encourage public opinion favorable to the development of state-wide public library service; and to stimulate endowments and bequests." An excellent brochure outlining the library's services was a project completed this year (samples are available on request).

During the last five years noteworthy improvements in the state's public libraries have occurred when "Friends" put their shoulders to the wheel: The passage of a special levy for a new building was largely the work of "Friends" in Morgantown; recently the Huntington group was instrumental in the passage of a special statute in the W. Va. Legislature which guaranteed better financing for the local public library.

The commissioning of detailed surveys by public library specialists has been a very fruitful project of the Martinsburg Friends. The first study was prepared by Robert Ake with emphasis on general problems and services, and the second, which had an emphasis on building needs, was the work of John Humphry. The funding of this most recent study was made possible by Corning Glass Company.

Other popular activities of the Friends include the sponsorship of reading clubs and story hours for children; book sales of old books as a money-making venture; the donation of expensive and rare editions of books as memorials.

PRESIDENTS
OF
W.VA. "FRIENDS"

Clarksburg Public Library, Rev. Harrywood Gray;
Marion County Public Library, Fairmont, Joseph
Hoffman; Fayette County Library, Fayette, Rosser Long; Pendleton County Library,
Franklin, Mrs. James Dyer; Huntington - Cabell Library, Mrs. E. Henry Broh;
Martinsburg Public Library, Mrs. Robert Steptoe; Raleigh County Library, Beckley,
Mrs. G. Richard Starr; Morgantown Public Library, Roy Clarkson.

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On June twenty-sixth Governor Hulett Smith announced the reappointment of Mr. Rich to the W. Va. Library Commission for a four-year term to commence July 1st. Having served on the Commission since 1947, Mr. Rich deserves a hearty "Thank You" for agreeing to continue this work which is one of significant public service.



EARL E. RICH

A few notes on his background are appropriate on this anniversary: He has been Chairman of the Library Commission since 1953; a mining engineer with 46 years of experience (20 years service with the Peerless Coal and Coke Company of Vivian and 15 years with U.S. Steel at Gary); he is a past president of the Kimball Rotary Club, the McDowell Chamber of Commerce, and the Pocahontas Mechanical and Electrical Institute with headquarters in Bluefield. Both Mr. and Mrs. Rich were born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania. They have a son, James C. Rich of Cleveland, Ohio and a daughter, Mrs. J. W. Romaine of Verona, New Jersey...and as of this date, there are six grandchildren. Active in Boy Scout work and a golfer, Mr. Rich now resides at 78 Franklin Street in Welch.

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A NEW LIBRARY
AT
MULLENS

A second new library has been opened in Wyoming County. Oceana opened a new library in December of 1966. Mayor Luther Kerns officiated at a ribbon cutting at the Mullens Area Library on Saturday, June twenty-fourth.

An attractive room has been created by remodeling a display room at 201 Guyandotte Avenue in Mullens. The installation of a new tile floor, a false ceiling, and metal-shelving resulted in a very functional arrangement. Congratulations to the new library board at Mullens. Membership includes: Harry Agee, Chairman; Mrs. D. Grove Moler, Secretary-Treasurer; Mrs. Herman Akers, Mrs. Frank Roncella, and Mrs. Josephine Williams.

Wyoming County demonstrates a pattern of organization which could be followed in other counties where there is a scattered population. The Wyoming County Library Board administers both new libraries through covering cost of personnel and books from a County Court appropriation. The membership of the County Board includes: Mrs. A. G. Lugar, Jr., President, Oceana; Mrs. Paul Viers, Secretary, Pineville; W. W. Staats, Mullens; Mrs. Amos Graham, Herndon; and Ray Shields, Baileysville.

Each local community has a municipal board appointed by the City Council and this board is responsible for providing the library room, equipment, and utilities. Oceana's new board is headed by Ronald Cook. Other members include: Mrs. Everett Gray, Leslie Lively, Mrs. Dale Cook, and Vaughn Cozort.

The Book Express serves the County Seat at Pineville.

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THE
DO IT YOURSELF
STORY PROGRAM

West Virginia's public libraries might take a cue from Carol Himmelsteib, Children's Librarian in Cleveland and University Heights who reported the following activity in Ohio Libraries: " 'WANTED VOLUNTEERS' 'Girls - 8 to 14' read the poster announcing a summer project. When they learned the project involved regular storytelling or reading aloud to neighborhood children, about thirty girls signed up. About a third of these carried out the program meeting regularly in their backyards, with parental permission and supervision and with the help of the librarians in selecting stories.

We think that we accomplished something for young listeners and their parents. There was a renewed interest in books. The volunteers themselves gained experience in

working with children and several were able to evaluate the reaction of their listeners to different stories. This story program may have been a step toward a library career for some. Mainly, however, it was a link between the library and its young users, one that brought us new sympathy and understanding."

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COORDINATING
LIBRARY RESOURCES
TITLE III

The first step toward developing a network for inter-library loan of books and information retrieval was taken during a meeting at the West Virginia Library Commission offices on May 19....twenty-five library representatives were in attendance: Ten representatives were from departmental libraries in State Government; four college librarians from Central West Virginia were present; one special librarian and one public librarian were in attendance along with seven staff members from the Library Commission.

Highlights of the discussion included the problem of low book funds in state departmental libraries and the need for a centralized holdings file to maximize use of resources.

The need for more efficient communication was emphasized. A courier service linking all types of libraries in Central West Virginia was suggested to expedite exchange of materials. The need for modern copying devices was discussed. Miss Parks reported that Title III of the Library Services and Construction Act could purchase hardware (things) but not library materials. This would render the purchase of reproductive equipment, a courier service, and a teletype apparatus possible. A representative of C & P Telephone Company described the various communication devices now available....Data Phone, Teletype and TWX.

At the West Virginia Library Commission meeting on June third, the staff was authorized to obtain cost estimates on a communication system.

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TITLE IV
SPECIALIZED STATE
LIBRARY SERVICES

A brain storming session was staged in the Commission offices on May 26 to explore various means of improving library service

for residents of state institutions and service for the blind and the physically handicapped.

Attending from State Departments were: Mrs. Isabel Hildenbrand in charge of Blind Service in the Welfare Department; J.B. Corrothers, Director of the Rehabilitation Center at Institute; George F. Gay of the Office of Rehabilitation; Blaine P. Dowler in charge of Recreation for the Mental Health Division; and C. Robert Sarver, Director of the Division of Correction for the Department of Institutions.

Chief points in the discussion were as follows: The Library Commission could provide basic collections of books for servicing all state institutions with initial emphasis placed on service to residents and inmates rather than service for professional staff. Where possible, rotating collections would be used. Mr. Sarver pointed out that there are certain security hazards involved with the exchange of materials with prisons. A questionnaire which will determine the present circumstances of library service will be circulated to all institutions.

In addition to improvement of the book collection the Library Commission proposes to give training to staff assigned to library service in institutions, in hospitals, prisons, reform schools, and homes for the orphaned and the aged. This core of leaders would in turn train inmates to assist with running the libraries in their respective institutions. Corrothers reported a fine new library at their Center at Institute.

There will be no change in the present Service for the Blind: Talking Books from Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh and Braille Books from Philadelphia.

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NEW STAFF
FOR THE
NEW SERVICES

To assist with the operation of the enlarged reference network under Title III, a professional reference librarian is

being added to the staff: Miss Sandra Peterson who graduates from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate Library School in August. Miss Peterson is a native of

Nebraska and has served on the staff of the Library of Congress.

A library consultant is being employed to concentrate on launching Specialized State Library Services: Miss Shirley Louthan who has served as a readers' consultant in public libraries in Ohio and more recently on the staff of the Michigan State Library will supervise work with institutions and service to the handicapped.

Both these professional librarians will join the staff in early September.

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SPECIAL STATUTES...
A BOON FOR
URBAN LIBRARIES

Two county libraries secured special legislation in the 58th session of the Legislature...

Cabell-Huntington and the Ohio County Library of Wheeling. Since there is no dedicated tax for public library support in West Virginia, a special state statute can assure a base of support from general revenue of any governing authority and also provide funds from special levies. An added benefit of both laws was the official placing of personnel under the Public Employees Retirement System.

The Huntington proposal garnered additional support from County Court Revenues on a scale which increases over a three year period and varies with the class of the tax. Revenue from the Board of Education will be from a special levy. Congratulations are in order for both the Cabell legislators and Library Board!

The Ohio County Library, until the advent of their new legislation, had been dependent on funds from a Board of Education levy. The new law calls for tax revenue from the County Court of three cents on each \$100 of property valuation to be set aside for public library support. A unique facet of the Wheeling law was the authorization of the use of one third of the new income for capital expenditure.

The Kanawha County special law passed in 1958 is an excellent statute, which might well serve as a model for cities. Small communities probably would not benefit.

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YOU CAN
LOOK A GIFT HORSE
IN THE MOUTH

The Economic Opportunity Programs have brought into the state quantities of donated books. General advice in the use

of these books is to use sparingly. Dorothy Sinclair has an excellent discussion of

the advantages and disadvantages of gifts. "It is easy to supplement any library by adding gift books, but not always easy to do so wisely. Gifts have added many good books to many libraries; but they have also, unfortunately, added many that should never have reached the shelves. The average gift drive leads to a wholesale cleaning out of attics and is a mixed blessing. The librarian before agreeing to accept gifts needs to ask himself whether the cost is greater than the gain." Sinclair: Administration of the Small Public Library. American Library Association, 1965, p. 110.

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REFERENCE SERVICE

CALIFORNIA STYLE

The San Joaquin Valley Information Center invited visitors to phone free from the Exhibit Booth at the County Fair to the information desk at the library....and the same demonstration was offered when the Director spoke at the Lions Club. It proved a canny way to demonstrate their expert reference service.

"And there was a ranger in Yosemite Park who had to find a solution to the problem of bears chewing up the wooden trail signs. The regional research center found a regional chemical plant had a remedy especially for bears....they sent a sample of the product. More recently it has been noted that Yosemite signs appeared unchewed." from Public Library Reporter No. 12, American Library Association, 1967.

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